

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 12228 01 OF 02 011749Z
ACTION HEW-06

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 12228

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELING SURVEY

1.REF: STATE 178135. LAW RELATING TO CARBOHYDRATE
LABELLING IN UK IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUANTITATIVE DECLARATION OF CARBOHYDRATES: THIS IS
NOT REQUIRED ON FOOD LABELS GENERALLY. WHERE LABEL
CLAIMS THAT THE FOOD PROVIDES ENERGY ARE MADE THE CALORIE
CONTENT MUST BE STATED PER OUNCE OR FLUID OUNCE, OR PER
100 GRAMS OR 100 MILLIMETRES FOOD IF THE QUANTITY OF FOOD
IS STATED IN METRIC UNITS. WHERE SLIMMING CLAIMS ARE
FOR A FOOD THE CALORIE CONTENT OF A SPECIFIED QUANTITY
OF FOOD MUST BE STATED (THE 'SPECIFIED QUANTITY' IS NOT
LAID DOWN IN THE REGULATIONS SO THE MANUFACTURER IS FREE
TO CHOOSE THE QUANTITY). IN ADDITION THE LABEL MUST BEAR
A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FOOD CANNOT AID SLIMM-
ING UNLESS IT IS PART OF A CALORIE CONTROLLED DIET.
WHEN CALCULATING CALORIFIC VALUES THE FOLLOWING FACTORS
MUST BE USED:

1 GAMME OF CARBOHYDRATE (EXPRESSED AS MONOSACCHARIDE)
CONTRIBUTES 3.75 KILOCALORIES

1 GRAMME OF GLYCITOL CONTRIBUTES 3.75 KILOCALORIES

1 GRAMME OF PROTEIN CONTRIBUTES 4 KILOCALORIES

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LONDON 12228 01 OF 02 011749Z

1 GRAMME OF ALCOHOL CONTRIBUTES 7 KILOCALORIES
1 GRAMME OF FAT CONTRIBUTES 9 CALORIES
WHERE A CLAIM IS MADE THAT THE FOOD IS 'STARCH REDUCED'
THE STARCH CONTENT MUST BE SUBSTANTIALY LOWER THAN THAT
OF ITS UNMODIFIED COUNTERPART, AND THE FOOD MUST CONTAIN
LESS THAT 50 PERCENT ANHYDROUS CARBOHYDRATE, CALCULATED
BY WEIGHT ON THE DRY MATTER.

WHERE A CLAIM IS MADE THAT RELATE TO DIABETIC, THE CARBOHYDRATE CONTENT MUST BE STATED ON THE LABEL IN GRAMMES PER OUNCE, FLUID OUNCE, 100 GRAMMES OR 100 MILLI-LITRES FOOD ACCORDING TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE QUANTITY IS MARKED ON THE LABEL. THE CALORIE CONTENT PER OUNCE, FLUID OUNCE, ETC., MUST ALSO BE STATED. IF A DIABETIC FOOD CONTAINS ANY CARBOHYDRATE THE LABEL MUST NOT STATE THAT IT CONTAINS NO SUGAR.

FOR ALL ABOVE LABELLING PURPOSES 'CARBOHYDRATE' IS DEFINED AS 'ANY NEUTRAL POLYHYDROXY ALCOHOL CONTAINING HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN IN WHICH THE HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN OCCUR IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS IN WATER, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY POLYSACCHARIDE WHICH IS NOT NEUTRALISED BY MAN'.

2. NON-QUANTITATIVE DECLARATION OF CARBOHYDRATES: DECLARATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT THAT ALL THE INGREDIENTS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF A PRODUCT MUST BE DECLARED IN DESCENDING ORDER OF PROPORTION BY WEIGHT USED. CERTAIN FOODS, INCLUDING BISCUITS, SUGAR CONFECTIONERY AND FLOUR CONFECTIONERY, ARE EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENT FOR A LIST OF INGREDIENTS, BUT THE LIST MUST BE SHOWN ON ALL PRODUCTS WHERE A SLIMMING CLAIM IS MADE. INGREDIENTS MUST BE STATED BY THEIR SPECIFIC NAME EXCEPT WHERE GENERIC TERMS ARE ALLOWED. GENERIC TERMS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 LONDON 12228 01 OF 02 011749Z

RELEVANCE ARE: PREPARED PURIFIED STARCH MAY BE CALLED 'EDIBLE STARCH' OR FOOD STARCH OR 'STARCH'; ANY FORM OF THE PRODUCT CONSISTING PRINCIPALLY OF SUCROSE AND USUALLY KNOWN AS SUGAR MAY BE CALLED 'SUGAR'.

3. 'SLIMMING' AND DIABETIC CLAIMS HAVE BEEN COVERED IN (1). TONIC RESTORATIVE AND MEDICINAL CLAIMS ARE VIRTUALLY PROHIBITED, BUT CLAIMS THAT A FOOD IS DEFICIENT IN ONE OR MORE SUBSTANCES CAN BE MADE. IN THIS CASE EITHER THE MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF SUBSTANCE IN THE FOOD, CALCULATED BY WEIGHT AND EXPRESSED AS PERCENT WEIGHT OF THE FOOD, OR THE MINIMUM DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS MAXIMUM QUANTITY AND MINIMUM QUANTITY IN THE UNMODIFIED COUNTERPART, EXPRESSED AS PERCENT OF THIS MINIMUM QUANTITY, MUST BE STATED. WHERE A SPECIFIC PURPOSE IS CLAIMED THE AMOUNT OF FOOD WHICH MUST BE CONSUMED TO ACHIEVE THAT PURPOSE MUST BE STATED. THERE ARE NO REGULATIONS COVERING CLAIMS FOR PREVENTION OF DENTAL CARIES, BUT AUTHORITIES WOULD EXPECT

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PAGE 01 LONDON 12228 02 OF 02 011745Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 12228

THAT ANY SUCH CLAIM COULD BE SUBSTANTIATED.

4. LABELLING OF OTHER MACRO NUTRIENTS:

PROTEIN - LABEL CLAIMS FOR PROTEIN CONTENT OF A FOOD MAY NOT BE MADE UNLESS AT LEAST 12 PERCENT CALORIE CONTENT IS PROVIDED BY PROTEIN.

FATS: - THERE ARE NO GENERAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING LABEL CLAIMS. FOR FOODS WHERE AN INGREDIENTS LIST IS REQUIRED THE SPECIFIC FAT NEED NOT BE NAMED; THE GENERIC TERMS 'FAT' OR 'OIL' OR 'SHORTENING', WHICH MAY BE QUALIFIED BY THE WORDS 'EDIBLE' AND/OR 'VEGETABLE' AND/OR ANIMAL AS APPROPRIATE ARE ALLOWED. IN THE CASE OF SKIMMED MILK WITH NON-MILK FAT, WHERE A LABEL CLAIM AS TO CORONARY HEART DISEASE IS MADE, THE LABEL MUST STATE THE QUANTITY OR PROPORTION AND APPROPRIATE DESIGNATION OF EACH FAT OR OIL IN THE FOOD AND WHETHER OR NOT IT IS HYDROGENATED. NOTE THAT THERE IS NO PROHIBITION ON THE LISTING OF NUTRIENTS IN A FOOD PRODUCT OR THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF THE PRODUCT IN THE UK, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT MANDATORY; SUCH LISTS ARE NOT REGARDED AS LABEL CLAIMS REGULATIONS RELEVANT TO THE ABOVE LEGISLATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

THE LABELLING OF FOOD REGULATIONS 1970 S.I. 1970 NO. 400
AMENDED BY S.I. 1972 NO. 1510 AND 1976 NO. 859.
THE SKIMMED MILK WITH NON-MILK FAT REGULATIONS 1960, S.I.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 12228 02 OF 02 011745Z

1960 NO. 2331.

THE SPECIFIED SUGAR PRODUCTS REGULATIONS 1976, S.I. NO.
509. ABOVE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM PENDRAGON HOUSE, P.O.
BOX 5, ROWAYTON STATION, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 0685.
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